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CITY OF ST. ALBANS



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

JAMES G. SLEIGH, M.B. Ch.B. D.P.H.

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

R.E.C. GODDARD F.A.P.H.I. M.R.S.H.

FOR THE YEAR

1956



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ST. ALBANS CITY COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

- of the -

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

James C. Sleigh
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

- and -

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

R. E. C. GODDARD
F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.,

FOR THE YEAR 1956

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

ST. ALBANS CITY

Alderman R. E. Holdham (Chairman)

Councillor J. T. Jarman (Vice-Chairman)

Alderman W. Bird

Councillor G. F. Burrell

Councillor Mrs. S. E. Dunham

Councillor P. W. Hall

Councillor Mrs. L. Millard

Councillor W. G. Pyne

Councillor Mrs. I. E. Stebbings

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

James C. Sleigh, M.B., ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

R. E. C. Goddard F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.,
Chief Public Health Inspector,
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

C. A. Bailey, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.,
Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector,
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

L. A. Croft, M.A.P.H.I.,
Public Health Inspector,
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

C. W. McHugo, F.R.I.C.,
Public Analyst (Part Time)

Mrs. K. F. James,
Secretary

R. H. Fox,
Public Health Assistant

Health Department,
15, Hatfield Road,
St. Albans.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the City of St. Albans and the Chairman and Councillors of the St. Albans Rural District Council.

Mr. Mayor, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the health of the City of St. Albans and the St. Albans Rural District for 1956.

The incidence of infectious diseases was extremely low, as will be seen from the details supplied in the report. There was, however, one very disturbing feature to which no solution has yet been found, that is a prolonged outbreak, which is not yet over, of Winter Sickness at one of the schools in the City. I have commented more fully in regard to it in the City report.

The immunisation rate for Diphtheria and Whooping Cough is, as one would expect with no interruptions from poliomyelitis, very much better, in fact the Diphtheria rate is over 100% and the Whooping Cough rate 94%. It should be realised, of course, that this is due partially to catching up the back lag of immunisations which had to be postponed in 1955.

To you, Mr. Mayor, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to record my sincere thanks for the consideration and help you have at all times shown to me, and to my staff I wish to record my sincere thanks for their able and conscientious performance of their duties.

I am also deeply indebted to the chief clerk, secretary and staff in the Divisional Health Office for their assistance in preparation of the statistics for this report and for the many extra duties carried out by them during the year, which were actually outside their Divisional Health Office duties.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. C. SLEIGH,

Medical Officer of Health.

Section A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

		St. Albans	St. Albans
		City	R.D.C.
Registrar General's estimate of resident population	... ...	46,660	31,540
Area (in acres)	... ...	5,129	32,084
Number of inhabited houses on the Rate Books:-			
Dwelling Houses	... ...	13,935	7,569
Shops with living accommodation	... ...	312	87
Licensed Premises with living accommodation		76	60
	TOTAL	14,323	7,716
Rateable Value	... ...	£811,026	£339,206

Extracts from Vital Statistics

		St. Albans	City	St. Albans	R.D.C.
		M.	F.	Total	
Live Births - Legitimate	375	353		728	220
Illegitimate	17	16		33	6
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population		16.31			14.43
Stillbirths	... ...	10	2	12	5
Deaths	... ...	241	272	513	249
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	... ...	10.99			19.31

Deaths from Pregnancy, Child Birth, Abortion

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 (Total live and Stillbirths)	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 (Total live and Stillbirths)
	-	-	1	2.15

Deaths of Infants Under 1 Year of Age

	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	9	3	12	5	4	9
Illegitimate	-	-	-	-	-	-
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age. All Infants per 1,000 live births		15.77			19.78	
Combined Rate				17.27		
Neonatal Death Rate		14.45			8.79	

The Following Table gives the Death, Birth and Infant Mortality Rates since 1947:-

Year	Death Rate		Birth Rate		Infant Mortality Rate	
	St. Albans City	St. Albans R.D.C.	St. Albans City	St. Albans R.D.C.	St. Albans City	St. Albans R.D.C.
1947	12.6	9.2	17.9	16.5	33.0	54.0
1948	10.2	6.98	17.2	14.54	19.2	18.1
1949	11.5	8.2	18.2	14.8	13.1	22.2
1950	11.3	7.7	16.3	13.2	33.3	22.5
1951	12.0	7.7	16.4	13.5	27.6	29.1
1952	10.6	6.8	16.5	12.8	27.1	8.1
1953	11.52	18.05	15.60	14.46	29.87	28.64
1954	10.83	17.74	15.43	14.48	18.54	16.59
1955	10.32	19.10	15.93	15.16	15.23	15.28
1956	10.99	19.31	16.31	14.43	15.77	19.78
1902	10.9	21.4			67.4	
1901	13.0	21.6			135.4	

Causes of Death

		St. Albans		St. Albans	
		City	M.	F.	R.D.C.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	2	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	-	-
3.	Syphilitic diseases	...	...	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	-	-
8.	Measles	...	...	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases		1	-	2
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	7	8	4
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus		14.	3	7
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	-	13	-
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	...	-	7
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms		27	36	18
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	1	2	2
16.	Diabetes	...	1	-	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system		22	51	25
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	48	30	42
19.	Hypertension	...	...	10	13
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	18	39
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	20	21	14
22.	Influenza	...	-	2	2
23.	Pneumonia	...	17	10	38
24.	Bronchitis	...	14	5	11
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system		8.	1	3
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	4	4	-
27.	Gastritis and enteritis, diarrhoea		-	-	2
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	2	1	3
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	3	-	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion		-	-	1
31.	Congenital malformations	...	2	1	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases		12	11	23
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	2	3	3
34.	All other accidents	...	5	6	2
35.	Suicide	...	1	4	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	-	-	-
TOTALS		241	272	249	360
					1,122

Once again, the greatest single cause of death was, excluding heart disease, cancer. "Heart Disease" was chiefly a normal termination of life in old age - something which is inevitable, and most of the 354 cases would be more reasonably classified as "Old Age".

Vital Statistics, 1956 - England and Wales

Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns of Registrar General.

Births

Live Births (per 1,000 total population)	15.7
Stillbirths (per 1,000 total live and still births)	23.0

Deaths

All Causes (per 1,000 total population)	11.7
Infants under 1 year (per 1,000 related live births)	23.8
Maternal Mortality (per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	0.56
Neonatal Death Rate (per 1,000 related live births)	16.9

This table is included to enable comparisons to be made between local rates and national rates, but in dealing with the relatively low numbers from which local rates are calculated, one must be very cautious about drawing conclusions.

Number of Deaths and Death Rate from Tuberculosis and Cancer

1956

The provisional numbers of deaths and death rates per million population for England and Wales during the year 1956 are as follows:

	<u>Number</u>			<u>Rate</u>		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Respiratory Tuberculosis	3,533	1,318	4,851	164	57	109
Other Tuberculosis	271	251	522	13	11	12
Cancer of lung and bronchus	15,615	2,570	18,185	726	111	407
Other Cancer	33,317	41,199	74,516	1548	1780	1668

ANALYSIS OF INFANT MORTALITY
(Combined figures for two authorities)

Cause of Death	Age at Death			Age at Death			Total under 1 yr.
	Under 1 week	1 and under 2 wks	2 and under 3 wks	Total under 1 mth	1 and under 3 mths	6 and under 6 mths	9 and under 12 mths
Prematurity ...	6	1	-	-	7	-	-
Gastro Enteritis ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations	4	-	-	-	4	2	9
Marasmus ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
T.B. ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Difficult Labour ...	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Other Causes ...	3	-	-	-	3	-	1
All Causes ...	14	1	-	-	15	2	1
							21

This table shows the marked change that has occurred recently in the cause of infant deaths. Prematurity and Congenital Malformations have remained fairly constant but the great killers of years not so long ago, Gastro Enteritis Marasmus and Pneumonia, show no deaths at all this year.

Section B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA
Welfare Centres and Clinics.

Bricket Wood - The Social Club, Oak Avenue.

Infant Welfare - 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 2-4 pm.
(Doctor attends 2nd)

Minor Ailments treated between 8.30 and 9am. at Nurses Cottage,
139, Mount Pleasant Lane. (Telephone Garston 2183)

Colney Heath - The Pavilion

Infant Welfare - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 2.30 - 4pm.

Minor Ailments treated in children's own homes or at local scho

Harpenden - Memorial Hospital, (Harpenden 3696)

Ante-Natal (Booking) - 2nd and 4th Mondays, 2 - 4pm.

40, Luton Road, (Harpenden 40)

Ophthalmic - 1st and 3rd Mondays, 11am - 12 noon.
(By appointment)

Minor Ailments - Wednesdays, 9am - 12 noon (Doctor attends)

Speech Therapy - Wednesdays, 9.30am - 12.30pm.

Infant Welfare - 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 1.45 - 4.30pm.

Dental - Mondays, 2 - 4pm.
Thursdays, 10.30am - 12 noon; 2 - 4pm.
(By appointment)

Batford J.M.I. School, Pickford Hill.

Infant Welfare - 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 1.45 - 4.30pm.

London Colney - Primary School, Alexander Road.

Minor Ailments - Fridays, 9.30am - 12 noon (Doctor attends
2nd and 4th)

Infant Welfare - Thursdays, 1.45 - 4.30pm.

Redbourn - Congregational Hall

Infant Welfare - 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 2.30 - 4.30pm.

Minor ailments treated 8.15 - 8.30am., and 6.15 - 6.45pm.
at Nurse's residence, 18, Bettespole Meadows (Redbourn 251)

St.Albans - Village Hall, Park Street.

Infant Welfare - 2nd and 4th Mondays 1.30 - 4pm.

St. Luke's Hall, Camp Road.

Infant Weighing - 2nd and 4th Fridays, 2.-4pm.

Mandeville J.M.I. School

Infant Welfare - 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 2 -4pm.

Margaret Wix Health Annexe - High Oaks (St.Albans 56994)

Infant Welfare - Wednesdays, 1.30 - 4pm.

Speech Therapy - Mondays, 9.30 - 12.30pm.
Thursday 9.30 - 12.30pm.

Dental - Tuesday am. (2nd and 4th in month)^{xx}
Wednesday am. (1st and 3rd " ")^{xx}
Thursday pm. (weekly)^{xx}
Friday am. and pm. (weekly)^{xx}
Saturday am. (alternate)^{xx}

^{xx} By appointment

Wellington Court, Bricket Road (St.Albans 55002 and 54926)

Immunisation and - Mondays, 9am - 12 noon (Doctor attends)
Minor Ailment

Dental - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and
Friday, 9.30am - 12.30pm.
Saturdays, 9.30am - 12 noon (alternate)
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and
Friday, 2-5pm.

Orthoptic - Thursday and Friday, 9am. - 12noon;
2 - 4.30pm.

Ophthalmic - Thursday and Friday, 10am - 12noon
Monday, 9.30 - 10.30am.

Wellington Court - cont'd.

Speech	- Tuesday, 9.30am - 12.30pm. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 1.30 - 4.30pm)
Ante-Natal	- Wednesday, 9.30 - 11.30am. Monday, 2 - 4.30pm (Midwives session)
Infant Welfare	- Tuesday and Friday 1.30 - 4pm. (Doctor attends Friday) Foods issued Tuesday and Friday.

Bricket House, Bricket Road (St.Albans 55431)

Orthopaedic	- Monday, Wednesday Friday, all day Surgeon attends 3rd Wednesday and 2nd Friday, pm.)
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Osterhills Hospital, Normandy Road (St.Albans 52211)

V.D. (Women)	- Tuesday 5-7pm; Friday 2-4pm.
V.D. (Men)	- Tuesday 5-7pm; Friday 10am - 12noon
Post Natal	- Friday, 11am.
Chest Clinic	- Tuesday, 2pm. (children) Monday, 2pm. (St.Albans patients)

Hill End Hospital (St.Albans 55555)

Child Guidance - Monday to Friday, am. and pm.

Sandridge - The Parish Hall

Infant Weighing - 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 2.30 - 3.30pm.
Minor Ailments treated between 4 and 5pm. at nurse's residence,
2, Reynolds Crescent (St.Albans 54985) or in children's own
homes if necessary.

Shenley

Minor Ailments treated at school.

Wheathampstead - Mead Hall, East Lane

Infant Welfare	- 2nd and 4th Fridays, 2.30 - 4pm. (Doctor attends 3pm)
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Minor Ailments treated 8.30 - 9am. at Nurse's residence,
5, Brewhouse Hill, (Wheathampstead 3123)

National Health Service Act.

The Divisional Administration of the Health Services administered by the Local Health Authority, the County Council, continues to work very smoothly and an increasing amount of detailed administration is being passed out to Divisional Health Offices from Hertford.

The records available in the Divisional Health Office on Local Health Authority work are of the greatest value to me in my Local Sanitary Authority (Medical Officer of Health) work, especially in what is my most difficult job, assessing medical points for housing applications.

Every ambulance journey exceeding 50 miles outwards has to be sanctioned by me as Divisional Medical Officer, and I can assure you that the case is investigated very carefully indeed before consent is given.

Ambulance Service

I am indebted to Divisional Officer R. Hughes for the following information:

District of St. Albans
Year ending 31st December, 1956

Appended are details of calls dealt with during the last year.

	Ambulance	Utilicon	Total	Increase and Decrease over 1955
Accidents	614	7	621	- 49
Sudden Illness	225	3	228	+ 19
Maternity	356	-	356	- 63
Removals	9,586	10,262	19,848	- 485
Mileage	54,975	77,147	132,122	- 4,641

These figures show a slight but very welcome decrease compared with 1955.

Hospitals.

I am indebted to Mr. E.J. Burgess, Secretary, Mid-Herts. Group Hospital Management Committee, for the following information:

The allocation of beds is as follows:

St. Albans City Hospital.

Surgical	87
Medical	66
Orthopaedic	20
Paediatric	25
Chronic Sick	78
Maternity	23
Gynaecological	26
Chest	31
Infectious Diseases	18

Private Wing:

Section 5 Patients	4
Section 4 Beds	6
Total	384

School Medical Service

This service continues to work very smoothly, due largely to the help and co-operation received from Head Teachers. I have been very impressed by the interest taken by parents and in about 75% of the examinations, one of the parents has been present.

The innovation of calling parents up when their children are re-examined following a defect found at a previous examination has proved to be very valuable and is, I believe, thoroughly appreciated by the parents. The attendance of parents at such examinations is very good indeed. It was considered that this might overload the School Medical Officers, in that it would possibly take more time to deal with each individual case, but in practice we find that by calling the parents we do not have to call the children so often and this fully balances the apparent disadvantage.

Milk and Meals in Schools

These are of a very high standard and a well worth while investment. Washing facilities appear adequate in most cases and food preparation rooms and kitchens clean, though space is often limited.

Health Visiting

There are seventeen nurses doing health visiting in the St. Albans Division of Hertfordshire. They are employed for the visiting of persons in their homes for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of young children, old persons, persons suffering from illness and expectant or nursing mothers, and as to the measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

Nursing Homes and Old People's Homes.

There are five Registered Nursing Homes in this area, and nine Registered Old People's Homes. All are regularly inspected.

Section C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supplies

See Chief Public Health Inspector's Report.

Drainage and Sewerage

See Chief Public Health Inspector's Report.

Swimming Baths

The public swimming baths in the area - one in the City and two in the Rural District - have at all times been well maintained. Continuous filtration and chlorination is carried out at all three and the bacteriological results which are checked frequently throughout the summer, have proved very satisfactory.

Public Baths

These have been going now for over four years and undoubtedly provide a much needed service. I have always emphasized that this service is a Public Health Service and cannot be expected to be financially self-supporting, but the increasing numbers using the baths suggest that the gap between income and expenditure will decrease but it will, I am sure, never close. To put up the charges would, I feel sure, increase not decrease the gap.

Mortuary

The following bodies were removed to the mortuary:-

Adult -	Males	...	...	...	51
	Females	..	..	..	38
Children -	Males	...	...	...	3
	Females	..	..	..	1
	Number of Post Mortems	...	...	...	89

General Nutrition

Poor nutrition is rare and often is the result of fussing parents indulging in food fads. Underweight children often are of small birth weight, or have small parents.

Nursing in the Home.

The District Nursing Sisters are available for all cases of domiciliary nursing which includes Midwifery and General Nursing and in all cases where there is illness in the home and where a request is made personally or at the request of the doctor in attendance.

Home Help Service

This service is administered by the Herts County Council and provides domestic help for households where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, lying-in, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over school age within the meaning of the Education Act, 1944.

The Organiser, who is a member of the Divisional Health Office staff, receives requests from doctors, health visitors,

midwives, hospital almoners and welfare organisations, but these requests must be backed up by a medical or nurse's certificate. No-one is denied help on financial grounds and every case can be assessed according to the family income.

The service is proving extremely popular. So much so, in fact, that we are unable to provide all the home help that is desired because we cannot get sufficient numbers of Home Helps. This is particularly difficult in the period Christmas - Easter when, of course, illness is at its height and one must remember that illness affects Home Helps as well as other members of the community.

Section D.

HOUSING

Rehousing is still the greatest problem confronting the two Councils. Both use a points scheme and in addition, all certificates from medical practitioners requesting priority for any of their patients are submitted to me as Medical Officer of Health. I have the power to allocate additional points on medical grounds without disclosing my reason for doing so. In extreme cases I also have the power of giving absolute priority, but this power I am very unwilling to use as, of course, if this power were abused it would ruin the whole points scheme, with which I am completely in favour.

The duty thus imposed on me is a very difficult one, and I have no doubt that on occasions I shall make mistakes, but I can assure both Councils that I shall do my utmost to make their housing scheme work as fairly as is humanly possible, bearing in mind the very large and urgent demand for houses.

Points are allotted independently of me for such conditions as overcrowding, etc. I therefore never give points for conditions which already attract points under the Housing points scheme.

As I warned both Councils at the time, additional houses have had to be added to those given in the report of last year to the Minister.

Section E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Food Poisoning Outbreaks

Total No. of Outbreaks	No. of Cases	No. Of Deaths	Organisms or other Agents responsible with no. of outbreaks of each	Foods involved with no. of outbreaks of each.
-	5	-	Salmonella Typhimurium 3 Unknown 2	-

After most careful investigation it was impossible to trace the cause of these cases contracting food poisoning. This is only to be expected in dealing with such small numbers.

Section F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES Notifiable Diseases (Other than Tuberculosis) during 1956

	St. Albans City Notified	Deaths	St. Albans R.D.C. Notified	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	29	-	31	-
Whooping Cough	37	-	34	-
Measles	44	-	46	-
Pneumonia	14	-	2	-
Erysipelas	10	-	6	-
Food Poisoning	2	-	3	-
Infective Hepatitis	1	-	3	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	-	-	-
" (Non Paralytic)	1	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	17	-
Acute Encephalitis	-	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever.	1	-	3	-

Tuberculosis

Cases on Register at 31st December, 1956

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non Pulmonary</u>		<u>Total</u>
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
St. Albans City	199 (186)	111 (107)	25 (26)	16 (19)	351 (338)
St. Albans R.D.	148 (134)	119 (108)	12 (13)	22 (20)	301 (275)
Totals	347 (320)	230 (215)	37 (39)	38 (39)	652 (613)

Figures at 31.12.55 are in brackets

The increases are, I believe, due to more intensive search for cases, e.g., Mass Radiography, and the better co-operation of other Local Authorities in notifying to us their cases moving into our district. I do not think the disease is, in fact, increasing.

Smallpox

There were no cases during 1956

Vaccination

The following figures obtained from the Divisional Health Office relate to the St. Albans Division, which comprises St. Albans City, St. Albans R.D.C., Harpenden U.D.C. and Elstree R.D.C.

Number of persons Vaccinated (or Re-vaccinated) during 1956:

Age at 31st December	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 & over	Total
Number vaccinated	1,157	94	38	35	20	1,344
Number re-vaccinated	-	-	12	24	83	119

Number of cases specially reported during period (age groups as above) NIL

Number of births registered for the St. Albans Division 1,935
Primary vaccination rate per 1,000 births 69.6

Of the total number of primary vaccinations (1,344), 569 were done at County Council Clinics.

The primary vaccination rate of 69.5 per 100 births is quite good, but it could be better.

I strongly advocate vaccination before the age of 1 year when the risks involved are negligible. Many people in later life find they must be vaccinated either to travel abroad or take up some employment where vaccination is insisted upon. The risks in vaccination in later years are much greater, except when primary vaccination has been done in infancy.

The great increase in air travel has also increased the risk of smallpox being brought into the country, as a case may be infected in, say, Egypt or India, and be here before the onset of the disease, whereas previously, by surface transport, the time involved in the journey ensured that the disease became apparent before landing in the United Kingdom.

Diphtheria

There were no cases reported in 1956

Immunisation against Diphtheria

The following figures obtained from the Divisional Health Office relate to the St. Albans Division, which comprises St. Albans City, St. Albans R.D.C., Harpenden U.D.C. and Elstree R.D.C.

Number of children who completed a full course for primary Immunisation in the Authority's area (including temporary residents) in 1956

Total number of children who were given a secondary or re-inforcing injection (i.e., subsequent to a complete full course)

Age at date of final injection:

Under 5	5 - 15	Total
---------	--------	-------

1,866	94	1,960	1,131
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Number of births registered for the same area: 1,935

Primary immunisation rate per 100 births 101.3

The numbers shown include 1,648 children who received primary combined Whooping Cough - Diphtheria immunisation injections, and 312 children who received re-inforcing combined injections.

Whooping Cough

The following figures obtained from the Divisional Health Office relate to the St. Albans Division, which comprises St. Albans City, St. Albans R.D.C., Harpenden U.D.C. and Elstree R.D.C.

Number of children who completed a full course for Primary Immunisation in the Authority's area, (including temporary residents) in 1956

Age at date of final injection	Total
Under 5	5 - 15
1,770	43
	1,813

Primary Immunisation rate - 93.7%

These figures include 1,648 children who received a primary immunisation with a combined Whooping Cough - Diphtheria vaccine.

Several cases of Whooping Cough have occurred in children who have been immunised, but all such cases have been very mild indeed. We do not claim that whooping cough immunisation prevents whooping cough to anything like the extent that diphtheria immunisation prevents diphtheria, but it will prevent altogether the disease in many cases and in others, turn what is a very long, distressing and sometimes fatal disease into what could fairly be called a "Minor Ailment".

A report of the Medical Research Council early in 1957 suggests that there is a danger of converting a non-paralytic case of poliomyelitis into a paralytic one by using either the combined Diphtheria - Whooping Cough vaccine or an Alum Precipitated vaccine (A.P.T.) for Diphtheria. We are therefore, with very great regret, having to stop the use of the combined vaccine and also of A.P.T. for Diphtheria inoculations. This means that the total number of injections goes up from three to five and I do hope that this will not result in a serious fall in the immunisation rate for both Whooping Cough and Diphtheria. The present rates using the combined vaccine are very satisfactory (Diphtheria 101% of the total births, and Whooping Cough 94%) The 101% is admittedly a rather freak figure, due to catching up the back lag of 1955 when immunisations were held up by the prevalence of poliomyelitis.

I think it might be profitable for me to set down the recommended periods for all immunisation procedure, including vaccination. They are as follows:

Primary vaccination against smallpox at 3 months of age

First injection against Whooping Cough at 4 months of age

Second injection at 5 months and third at 6 months

First injection against Diphtheria at 7 months

Second injection at 8 - 12 months.

Winter Sickness

Winter Sickness has been very prevalent in one particular school in the City, though by no means confined to that school. The cause of the disease is not known and all laboratory tests of stools and vomit have proved negative. It is definitely infectious with an incubation period of about 5 - 6 days. It is characterised by very sudden onset of vomiting, with sometimes diarrhoea following but not always. It is most common in children, but certain of the staff of the school were affected. In adults, and to a lesser extent in children, the disease leaves a rather long period of feeling unwell. One attack definitely does not protect against others - several children had it three or four times. All possible causes were very carefully checked, food, canteens, lavatories, but no cause could be found, and this was confirmed by a visit from a Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health.

The disease is by no means new. I had a very large outbreak of it at Chatham in 1940, 1941 and 1942, and this produced a very marked increase in infant mortality, though so far, I am glad to say, there have been no deaths in St. Albans. At the time of the Chatham outbreak a similar outbreak occurred, though on a much wider scale, in Glasgow. I was in communication with the Medical Officer of Health there, but no infective agent could be found there either. In St. Albans I closed the school for a week and excluded all cases subsequently for seven days. This did appear to produce some good effects, but I fear that in many of the more transient cases where vomiting occurred at home, parents did not inform the Head Teacher and sent the children back to school thus helping, at any rate, to continue the outbreak.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

I have the honour to present to you my eighteenth Annual Report on the work of the Department for the year 1956.

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Considerable attention has been paid to all aspects of food hygiene and in the majority of premises a high standard is maintained.

As I have mentioned in previous reports, a happy relationship exists between members of the staff and traders generally, and I am very pleased to acknowledge the co-operation of the traders in matters of food and food hygiene.

The weekly sampling of "Designated" milks has continued with very good results.

St. Albans is a "specified area" under the Milk and Dairies (Milk, Dairies & Artificial Cream) Act, and no ungraded milk is permitted to be sold in the area.

All carcases of animals intended for human consumption have been examined prior to removal from the two licensed slaughterhouses in the City, although this frequently entails evening and early morning visits to the slaughterhouses.

HOUSING

In connection with the Council's Slum Clearance Programme, six houses were included in a Clearance Area and twenty three individual unfit houses were closed during the year; twenty two families, involving fifty seven persons, were re-housed.

A large number of dwelling houses were rendered fit as the result of informal action and in only seven instances was it necessary to have recourse to legal action.

STAFF

Throughout the year one post of Additional Public Health Inspector remained unfilled. The unfortunate delays experienced in filling vacancies among the qualified Inspectorate is materially affecting the Slum Clearance Programme and the implementation of the Clean Food Regulations.

I again wish to express my appreciation of the excellent work carried out by the members of the Staff and to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for the support received throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

R. E. C. GODDARD

Chief Public Health Inspector

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following is a summary of visits made during the year:-

Dwelling Houses.	..	..	..	623
Complaints reported to Department.	..	..	..	269
Complaints re rats and mice.	..	..	..	205
Complaints re flies, ants, bedbugs, woodworm etc.	..	..	..	26
Infectious disease and contacts.	..	..	..	88
Disinfestation of verminous premises.	..	..	..	23
New Council houses sprayed prior to occupation.	..	..	..	129
Council houses sprayed prior to re- occupation.	..	..	..	119
Common Lodging Houses.	..	..	..	10
Factories and Workplaces.	..	..	..	109
Cinemas and Public Halls.	..	..	..	15
Vacant land and dumps.	..	..	..	12
Rats and Mice.	..	..	..	3151
Rivers and Streams.	..	..	..	5
Drains examined and/or tested.	..	..	..	195
Smoke observations.	..	..	..	57
Stables and Piggeries.	..	..	..	14
Tents, Vans and Sheds.	..	..	..	72
Licensed premises.	..	..	..	53
Interviews.	..	..	..	223
Food premises (see later section).	..	..	..	1270
Miscellaneous visits.	..	..	..	658
Revisits to premises under notice (PH. Acts)	..	..	..	575
Revisits to premises under notice (H. Acts)	..	..	..	647
Swimming Baths.	..	..	..	14
Shops Acts.	..	..	..	28
Public Market and Food Stalls.	..	..	..	1191
Pet Shops.	..	..	..	4
Water Cress beds.	..	..	..	50
				9835

DEFECTS REMEDIED AND SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS
CARRIED OUT.

The defects and nuisances remedied or abated were 1017 and 210 preliminary and 7 statutory notices were served in connection therewith.

In addition to these notices the abatement of insanitary conditions is effected by an interview with those directly concerned.

The following summary gives particulars of work carried out as a result of inspections:-

Damp walls.	..	..	..	..	..	85
Defective roofs, spoutings and down pipes.						139
Defective floors, walls and ceilings.	..					111
Defective window frames and sash cords.						55
Defective fireplaces/cookers.	..	..				31
Sinks and waste pipes repaired or renewed.						38
Internal water supply provided.	..	..				19
Drains cleared and/or repaired.	..	..				81
Drains connected to sewer.	..	..				17
New W.C's provided.	..	..	..			16
W.C. compartments repaired.	..	..				32
W.C. pedestals provided.	..	..				30
W.C. cisterns provided or repaired.						51
Pail Closets abolished.	..	..	..			7
Cesspools abolished.	..	..	..			6
Dustbins provided.	..	..	..			20
Offensive sccumulations removed.	..	..				8
Foodstore provided or repaired.	..	..				12
Chimney and stack repaired.	..	..				9
Yards and passages paved or repaired.	..					6
Animals - Nuisances abated.	..	..				4
Contraventions remedied in shops.	..					23
Contraventions remedied in food premises.						45
Miscellaneous.	172

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DISINFECTION.

Enquiries are made with regard to infectious diseases and to contacts from other infected areas.

Disinfection of rooms is carried out following cases of infectious diseases and in connection with cases of Tuberculosis and Cancer.

Forty one cases of infectious diseases were enquired into and ten houses or rooms connected therewith fumigated. Seven houses in connection with tuberculosis and cancer were also fumigated.

DISINFESTATION.

1. Eradication of Bed Bugs etc.

During the year, eight treatments with an effective insecticide were carried out.

Of the premises treated, five were private dwellings and three were Council houses.

As a preventive measure one hundred and twenty nine new Council houses were sprayed with an insecticide before occupation and one hundred and nineteen Council houses before re-occupation.

2. Other Vermin - Ants, Earwigs etc.

Twenty four premises infested with cockroaches, ants and wood-worm were reported to the department and treated with insecticide.

Twenty nine wasp nests were also destroyed by the Public Health Assistant.

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HOUSING

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE

A. HOUSES DEMOLISHED

In Clearance Areas (Housing Act 1936 & Housing Repairs & Rents Act 1954)	HOUSES DEMOLISHED	Displaced during quarter	
		Persons	Families
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation.	-		
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement etc.	-		
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 27, Housing Act 1936	-		
NOT in Clearance Areas			
(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11, Housing Act 1936.	10	-	-

B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED

	Number		
(5) Under Section 11, Housing Act 1936 & Sections 10 (1) & 11 (2), Local Govt. (Misc. Prov.) Act 1953	23	57	22
(6) Under Sections 3 (1) & 3 (2) Housing Act 1949	-	-	-
(7) Parts of buildings closed under Section 12, Housing Act 1936	-	-	-

C. UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED

	By Owner	By Local Authority
(8) After informal action by local authority	210	-
(9) After formal notice under - (a) Public Health Acts	5	-
(b) Housing Act 1936	2	-
(10) Under Section 5, Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954	-	-

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are two registered Common Lodging Houses in the City and these have been well conducted.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

During the year under review the City Council approved the renewal of licenses in respect of the stationing of nineteen caravans, situated as single caravans or in small groups, in various parts of the City. New licenses were granted under similar conditions in respect of three caravans.

The Corporation now owns three sites - one at Abbey Camp, which holds fourteen caravans, one at Folly Avenue which holds ten caravans, and one at Drake's Drive which holds thirty caravans.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948.

The following table shows the number of Factories registered in the City at the end of the year:-

(a) Factories with mechanical power.	232
(b) Factories without mechanical power.	29

Many of these are small factories where only a few persons are employed.

The following defects were dealt with:-

Want of cleanliness.	6
Inadequate ventilation.	2
Unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences.	10
Insufficient sanitary accommodation. ..	2

.....

OUTWORKERS.

During the year notification was received of 25 persons within the City who are employed as outworkers in connection with the various trades as shown below:

Finishing and repairing of wearing apparel.	25
---	----	----	----	----	----

No cases of notifiable infectious disease has occurred in the homes of these outworkers and conditions of work and the premises are satisfactory in each case.

RODENT CONTROL.

The work in connection with the destruction of rats and mice has again been carried out efficiently and the standard methods, as recommended by the Ministry have been maintained.

The work is divided into two main sections - private and business premises - and the latter is sub-divided into casual and annual contracts.

Eighty six treatments were carried out at Local Authority properties, one thousand and forty at dwelling houses and three hundred and sixty one at other premises (including business premises).

Treatment of the soil system of sewers was carried out on two occasions and as previously, infestation was found to be in the older part of the system.

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PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

Local Authority	TYPE OF PROPERTY				(5)
	(2) Dwelling Houses	(3) Non-Agricultural (inc. Council Houses)	(4) All other (including Business Premises)	Total of Cols.(1) & (3)	
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	44	14,168	1,389	15,601	7
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of:-					
(a) Notification	10	260	91	361	
(b) Survey under the Act	34	106	6	146	7
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	-	3,418	1,270	4,688	-
3. Total inspections carried out including re-inspections	72	5,782	2,058	7,912	14
4. Number of properties inspected (In Sec. 2.) which were found to be infested by:					
(a) Rats -	(Major) 1 (Minor) 3	-	-	1	-
(b) Mice -	(Major) - (Minor) 20	(Major) 1 (Minor) 60	64	266	-
5. Number of infested properties (In Sec. 4.) treated by the L.A. Figures should NOT exceed those given at Sect. 4.	24	260	89	373	-

(1)	TYPE OF PROPERTY				(5)
	(2) Dwelling Houses (inc.Council Houses)	(3) All other (including Business Premises)	(4) Total of Cols.(1) (2) & (3)	(4) Total of Cols.(1) (2) & (3)	
6. Total treatments carried out including re-treatments	86	1,040	361	1,487	-
7. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:					
(a) Treatment	...	...	-	4	4
(b) Structural Work	...	...	20	4	24
8. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of notice under Sect.4 of the Act	-	-	-	-	-
9. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	...	...	-	-	-
10. Legal Proceedings	...	...	-	-	-

6. Total treatments carried out including re-treatments.
7. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:
 - (a) Treatment.
 - (b) Structural Work
8. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of notice under Sect.4 of the Act
9. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out
10. Legal Proceedings

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

This Act came into force on 1st April 1952 and the City Council adopted the recommendations of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals regarding conditions of licence.

Two licenses were renewed during the year.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The only class of offensive trade carried on in the City - that of Edible Fat Refiner - has been well conducted during the year.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Throughout the year observations were made of factory chimneys within the City regarding excessive emission of smoke.

Managements were interviewed and advice given. Assistance was also obtained from the representatives of the Ministry of Fuel and Power.

SWIMMING BATHS.

Periodic inspection of the Public Swimming Bath at Cottonmill Lane has been carried out and twenty samples, ten from the shallow (inlet) end and ten from the deep (outlet) end were taken covering the period May - September and all proved to be satisfactory.

In addition, five samples were taken during the same period from the pool at St. Albans School. This work is advisory and is done in co-operation with the school authorities.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Premises.

The following table shows the visits paid to food premises during the year:-

Grocery and provision shops.	..	..	..	146
Bakehouses.	..	..	..	47
Cooked food premises (including restaurant kitchens and cafes).	..	..	..	114
Fish shops (including fried fish premises)	..	..	..	60
Dairies and milkshops.	..	..	..	294
Slaughterhouses and butchers' shops.	..	..	..	298
Ice cream premises.	..	..	..	30
Licensed Premises.	..	..	..	53
Other food premises.	..	..	..	228

Bakehouses.

At the end of the year there were twenty-two bakehouses on the register.

The majority of these are maintained in a satisfactory condition but difficulty is experienced in one or two of the older bakehouses where the structural condition is such that demolition would appear to be necessary in the very near future.

Manufacture of Preserved Foods etc.

Cafes and Restaurant Kitchens.

Regular inspection of food premises was made throughout the year and these were found to be reasonably satisfactory.

Grocery and Provision Shops.

Frequent visits are made to grocery and provision shops in the City and in addition numerous requests are received from retailers for the examination of food stocks.

A list of food condemned at these and other premises is included in a later paragraph.

Hotels and Public Houses.

A number of visits was also made to these premises at six of which structural improvements, including the provision of additional lavatory accommodation, have been carried out.

Butchers' Shops.

Regular inspection of butchers' shops has been carried out throughout the year and on numerous occasions examination of meat and canned food was carried out at the request of the traders.

Fish Frying.

The trade of fish frying is carried out at eight establishments and on inspection during the year the premises were found to be well maintained.

St. Albans Market - Food Stalls.

Since the adoption by the City Council last year of the new Food Byelaws all food stores on the Saturday market have been visited weekly.

Generally there is a great improvement in the handling and displaying of food stuffs and the stall holders without exception, have co-operated with the staff in effecting improvements.

On every stall is now displayed the name and address of the holder.

Slaughterhouses.

One hundred and sixty seven visits have been made to local slaughterhouses for the inspection and examination of carcases for human consumption, as shown in the following table.

In addition, fifty one visits have been made to Sandridge Slaughterhouse in co-operation with St. Albans Rural District Council and the following have been examined viz:

<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
290	265	302	866

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle Exclud- ing Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	TOTAL
Number killed (if known).....	133	55	443	231	862
Number inspected.....	133	55	443	231	862
<u>All disease except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcases condemned.....	-	1	-	1	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.....	18	-	1	2	21
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis & cysticerci....	14%	2%	0.25%	1.4%	2.9%
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcases condemned.....	-	-	-	1	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.....	11	-	-	6	17
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis... .	8%	-	-	3.0%	2.0%
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.....	1	-	-	-	1
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.....	1	-	-	-	1
Generalised and totally condemned..	-	-	-	-	-

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Merchandise Marks Orders.

The above Orders relating to an indication of country of origin to be given to a number of imported food stuffs were introduced in May 1951.

In general it was found that traders co-operated readily in complying with the requirements of the Regulations.

ICE CREAM

(a) Premises.

Premises (including twelve registered during the year) for the sale of ice cream under section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938, are as follows:-

Manufacture and sale of ice cream.....	2
Sale of ice cream.....	133

Regular inspection was made of these premises and at a number structural alterations and improvements have been carried out.

The premises used by retailers are all provided with portable cabinets for storage of ice cream which is received in bulk from the manufacturers.

(b) Bacteriological Examination.

The results of the bacteriological examination of ice cream during the year were very satisfactory.

Of the nine samples examined, eight were placed in Grade 1 and one in Grade 2.

(c) Chemical Examination.

Three samples of ice cream were submitted for chemical analysis and the Public Analyst reported that they were of good quality and complied with the requirements of the Food Standards (Ice Cream) (Amendment) Order 1953.

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MILK AND DAIRIES

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

Number of premises registered as Dairies at 31.12.56. 5
Number of persons registered as Distributors at 31.12.56. 43

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised & Sterilised Milk)
Regulations, 1949.

The following table shows the results of the bacteriological examination of samples of "Designated" milk during 1956. In the course of these examinations "Tuberculin Tested" milks are submitted to the Methylene Blue Test and "Pasteurised" milks to the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase Tests.

Designation	No. of Samples	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase Test	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed
Tuberculin Tested	59 (96)	57 (83)	2 (13)	-	-
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	212 (192)	212 (192)	- (-)	212 (191)	- (1)
Pasteurised	231 (258)	230 (258)	1 (-)	230 (255)	1 (3)
TOTALS:	502 (546)	499 (533)	3 (13)	442 (446)	1 (4)

The figures in brackets refer to the corresponding results for 1955.

FOOD AND DRUGS

Samples.

During 1956, one hundred and thirty nine samples were submitted to the Public Analyst (Mr.C.W.McHugo, F.R.I.C.) for chemical analysis. These included seventy one of milk, two of pork sausage, lard, white pepper and table jelly, and one each of buttercream sponge, Madeira cake, fruit cream biscuits, milk chocolate crunch, milk chocolate wafer, baked beans, garden peas, processed peas, liver sausage, non-brewed condiment, malt vinegar, mixed spice, lobster paste, aspirin, full cream evaporated milk, dripping, luncheon meat, cockles, almond nougat, raspberry jellies, lemonade powder, instant whip, ground cinnamon, dried mint, cherry jam, tinned cream, orange squash, fish cakes, smoked cod roe, cheese cake mixture, cheese spread, butter flavouring, chocolate flavouring, gristick, custard powder, chicken & ham galantine, pork & meat roll, cooking oil, sweet pickle, piccalilli, "Host" sauce, shredded suet, Barbados sugar, mixed spice, ground almonds, "Helm Royal Tots", peppermint cordial, diabetic lemon squash, lemon squash, unsweetened lime juice, lime juice cordial, diabetic cordial, orange squash, lemon barley, grapefruit squash, non-alcoholic ginger, W. Indian marmalade, lime marmalade and lime marmalade (sugar free)

All the milk samples were obtained formally from roundsmen during delivery to the consumer and all were reported upon as genuine, reaching the legal presumed standard of fat content (3%) and solids not fat (8.5%).

It will be seen that the miscellaneous samples, all of which were obtained informally, covered a wide range of foodstuffs and all were reported upon as satisfactory by the Public Analyst.

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W A T E R S U P P L I E S.

(a) Main Supply.

Quarterly samples of water from the main supply of the St. Albans Water Works Company have been submitted to the Public Analyst for bacteriological examination.

Mr. McHugo reported that the water possesses a high degree of bacteriological purity and fully complies with the requirements of a supply intended for general and public use.

(b) Watercress - Treatment at the Beds.

Further to our experiences over the past few years with watercress grown locally, another series of trials with hypochlorite disinfection was carried out.

All cut cress from two extensive beds in the City is now immersed in a large shallow, concrete dipping tank which is dosed daily with a hypochlorite solution before being dispatched to a number of markets throughout the country.

The object of the daily tests was to ascertain the strength of hypochlorite required to produce a sterile cress under every possible variation of circumstances, without of course affecting the natural product in taste and appearance.

The cultivation of cress is dependent upon running water from natural sources, in this case from boreholes and river water and it cannot be denied that at some stage in the course of time, such waters are liable to contamination without warning. It was felt, therefore, in the light of past experience, that precautions of the nature now undertaken are most desirable.

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INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Home Killed Beef.	85	lbs
" " Mutton.	59	"
Imported Beef.	173	"
Offal.	..	..	..	68	"
Ham.	..	..	..	110	"
Tinned Ham.	..	..	..	44	tins
" Meat.	..	..	..	180	"
Sausages.	..	..	..	57	lbs
Fish.	..	..	..	18	stones
Tinned Fish.	..	..	..	107	tins
" Vegetables.	..	..	..	1084	"
" Fruit.	..	..	..	592	"
" Milk.	..	..	..	293	"
Cheese.	..	..	..	185	lbs
Oatmeal.	..	..	..	16	"
Semolina.	..	..	..	56	"
Mousse.	..	..	..	57	pkts
Orange Drinks.	..	..	..	32	bottles
Dried Fruits.	..	..	..	94	lbs
Ice Cream.	..	..	..	64	cartons
Cake.	..	..	..	56	lbs
Miscellaneous packets.	..	..	..	34	pkts
" tins.	..	..	..	148	tins
Pork Luncheon Meat.	..	..	..	219	"
Corned Beef.	..	..	..	65	"
Paprika.	..	..	..	1½	cwts
Cocoa.	..	..	..	1	"
Sliced Chicken.	..	..	..	17	pkts
Chicken Cutlets.	..	..	..	48	
Turkeys.	83	lbs
Apricot Pulp.	105	kgs
Cockles.	35	lbs
Rollmop Herrings.	1	gall

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